

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8 and 18 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiners Moon and Awad to Applicants' representative during the January 9, 2007 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the interview appears below.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-7, 9, 11, 13-17, 24 and 30-32.

Claims 1, 8 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8 and 18 have been amended to clarify that the display is openable relative to a support point when the first and second keyboard units are in the horizontally arranged state and foldable relative to the support point when the first and second keyboard units are in the folded state. It is not necessary for the first and second keyboards units to be open or closed for the display to be opened or closed. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Furuki et al. (Furuki), U.S. Publication No. 2002/0050980. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Furuki fails to disclose or suggest an input device that includes a foldable flexible display rotatably attached to one edge of a first or second keyboard unit in order to rotate relative to a second axis, the display being openable relative to a support point when the first and second keyboard units are in the horizontally arranged state and foldable relative to the support point when the first and second keyboard units are in the folded state, wherein the second axis and the support point are not at a same location, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 8.

Furuki's fourth embodiment (Figs. 16-18) discloses a keyboard input device with a flat display portion 17 with a display hinge 18 that pivotally supports the display portion 17 on a keyboard body 2 (paragraph [0075]).

As discussed during the personal interview, although Furuki may disclose a flat display portion 17 that is rotatably attached to one edge of the keyboard body 2 in order to rotate relative to the display hinge 18 (second axis), Furuki fails to provide any disclosure or suggestion with regard to the display portion 17 being openable or foldable relative to another point, i.e., a support point, that is not at the same location as the display hinge (second axis) as recited in claims 1 and 8.

Pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action identify point O of a connector 6 that supports a connector supporting portion 19 of a keyboard body 2 in the fifth embodiment as the support point of claim 1. However, the point O is at the same location where the display portion 17 is able to rotate relative to the keyboard body 2 (i.e., second axis).

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Furuki in view of Noguchi et al. (Noguchi), U.S. Patent No. 4,341,980, claims 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Furuki in view of Leman, U.S. Publication No. 2001/0054986, and claims 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Furuki in view of Katz, U.S. Patent No. 6,088,220. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Noguchi, Leman and Katz fail to overcome the deficiencies of Leman as applied to claims 1 and 8. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Katsura, U.S. Patent No. 6,377,324, in view of Kim, U.S. Publication No. 2003/043087. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Katsura and Kim fail to disclose or suggest a display with a linkage system that is integrally formed with a joint at both ends thereof, the linkage system including a pair of link parts that couples the first and second cover members, as recited in claim 33.

Katsura discloses a liquid crystal display panel with a lid 2 that rotates relative to a main body 1 via a hinge 3 (Figs. 1-3). The Office Action identifies Katsura's hinge 3 as the joint of claim 33 and asserts that a linkage system is integrally formed with the hinge 3 at both ends thereof. However, the illustration on page 8 of the Office Action and Figs. 1-3 of Katsura fail to add any structure to the hinge 3, and thus fails to disclose the linkage system of claim 33. Katsura fails to provide any disclosure with regard to any structure associated with the hinge 3 because Katsura's objective is to provide a clearance space for the display panel 4 (Abstract). Katsura thus fails to disclose or suggest the linkage system of claim 33.

Kim discloses a display screen where a lateral screen 14 (and lateral screen 16) moves relative to a central screen 12 via a supporting structure 32 (Figs. 1 and 2). The supporting structure 32 includes hinges 40, 42 in order for the lateral screen 14 to pivot relative to the central screen 12 (paragraph [0021]). The supporting structure 32 also includes slots 44, 46 in order for the lateral screen 14 to move toward and away from the central screen 12 (paragraph [0022]).

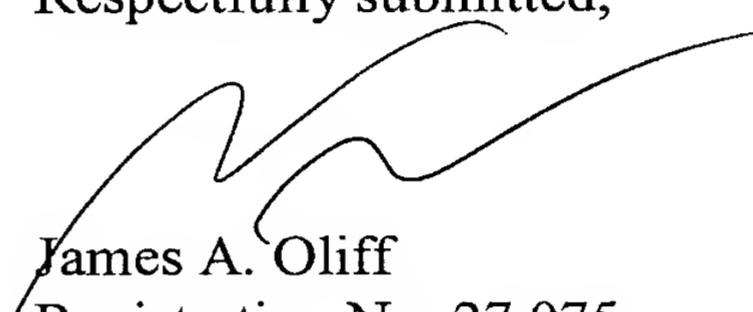
However, Kim's Fig. 2 fails to disclose a linkage system that is integrally formed with a joint at both ends thereof, as recited in claim 33. Kim instead discloses hinges 40, 42 at the right side of the supporting structure 32 and slots 44, 46 located within the supporting structure 32. Further, it is not clear, and it thus would not of been obvious, how a flexible display sheet is placed over the first cover member, the joint, and the second cover member as recited in claim 33 using Kim's supporting structure 32 in Katsura's hinge 3.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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